THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Ordnance Factories developed five types out of the seven types of ammunition to be developed for 155mm gun system. Two types of ammunition *i.e.* 155mm smoke Infra Red and 155mm Cargo could not be developed as related technology documents were not received from Bofors due to imposition of ban.

Out of these, one, namely, Infra Red shell is now not required by Army. DRDO is executing a project to develop the other item, *viz.* cargo shell.

Delay in LCA and Missile Programme

5119. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation have come into question with a Parliamentary Committee report indicating that the Light Combat Aircraft programme as well as the induction of surface to air missile Akash and Trishul have been delayed;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for delay in LCA and Missile programme;

(c) whether Government has seriously taken up this issue;

(d) if so, what is the progress being made; and

(e) by what time both LCA and Akash and Trishul will be made available soon to the defence forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Main reasons for delay in LCA project are attributed to lack of development experience, non-availability of ready infrastructure, Foreign Exchange (FE) crunch of 1992, sanctions imposed by USA in 1998 and technological complexities. The delay in missile development programme is attributed to enhancement in scope of work and technology denials such as Missile Technology Control Regimes (MTCR).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The first block of Flight Test phase has been successfully completed on the first technology demonstrator LCA (TD1). Analyses of the flight test results have indicated a reasonably good match between recorded flight data and performance estimates. The aircraft is being prepared for second block of flight test. The second technology demonstrator—LCA (TD2) is undergoing taxi trials before its maiden flight. Final phase of guided trials for Akash are planned by December 2003 and Trishul by June, 2003.

(e) LCA is likely to be ready for induction into Air Force Service by the year 2005. Akash and Trishul missiles are in advanced stage of evaluation through a series of flight trials and will be inducted into the services during 2003-2004.

Technology Experiment Satellite to monitor troops movement of neighbouring country

5120. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has put to use Technology Experiment Satellite to monitor troops movement of a neighbouring country;

(b) if so, when this was started; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Non-supply of SLR to BSF by COD, Jabalpur

5121. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Comptroller and Auditor General report prepared in 2001 pointed out that the Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur did not supply self-loading rifles worth Rs. 12.71 crore to the Border Security Force despite advance payment made in September, 1993;